



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Public Health Service

Office of Environmental Health
and Engineering

November 7, 1991

Navajo Area
Indian Health Service
P. O. Box G
Window Rock, Arizona 86515

Mr. Robert Bornstein
Federal OSC
U.S. EPA, Region IX
75 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, CA 94105-3901

Dear Mr. Bornstein:

Your letter of October 28, 1991 (attached) asked for assistance for the sewer system at the home of Mary Ann Vandever in the Brown-Vandever Allotment in the Haystack area of the Navajo Reservation. I have discussed the situation with our Field Engineer at Crownpoint, New Mexico and asked him to review the problem. It appears that the Indian Health Service provided the home with a water supply and a sewage disposal system in the 1970's. If we find that the sewage disposal system has failed due to lack of operation/maintenance by the homeowner (e.g., routine pumping of septage from septic tank), then we would expect the homeowner to pay for the repairs. If we find that the system failed due to design or material defects, we will resolve the problem as quickly as possible.

We appreciate your bringing this public health concern to our attention, and we will keep you informed of our findings and progress.

Sincerely,

Charles O. Dowell, P.E.
Director, OEHE, NAIHS

xc: William Griffith, Field Engineer
Dana Baer, District Engineer
Roy Vandever, Council Delegate, Baca Chapter
Fred James, Chapter President, Baca Chapter
Baca Chapter File